

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 13-19, and 32-38. The Examiner has allowed claims 20-31. The Examiner has objected to claim 12, but would allow such claim if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicants thanks the Examiner for a careful review and for allowance of claims 20-31.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 9-10, 13, 32-33, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Frost et al. (U.S. 4,420,316). The Examiner states that Frost discloses an exhaust aftertreatment system for a reciprocating internal combustion engine having... comprising a trap...said trap has a porosity greater than 90%..." Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion. In the Frost reference, column 4, lines 4-9: "the thin walls are provided with an internal open pore volume greater than about 25%, desirably at least about 35% and preferably between 40 and 70% of their bulk volume to assure fluid flow through their longer dimensions and to minimize hydraulic back pressure." Applicants claim 1 contains the limitation: " said trap has a porosity greater than 90%" which is clearly not anticipated by Frost et al. Because Frost et al. do not show all of Applicants' limitations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 and of claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1, be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 10, 32, and 35 as anticipated by Frost et al. The Examiner asserts that Frost shows "a trap (e.g. 30) disposed in the exhaust duct located upstream of the catalytic converter (See col. 9, lines 50-67; col. 10, lines 1-7, and 44-52). Applicants disagree with the Examiner. Nowhere do Frost et al. indicate that the trap is located upstream of a catalytic converter. Instead, Frost is comparing the can to that employed for a conventional catalytic converter. Specifically in one of the passages cited by the Examiner, Frost et al. state: "The can 50 is similar to a conventional type of can employed for mounting catalytic converter honeycomb substrates in exhaust systems of internal combustion engines..." (emphasis added) in column 9, lines 50-53. Figure 10, which is being described in the Frost et al. passages cited by the Examiner in columns 9 and 10,

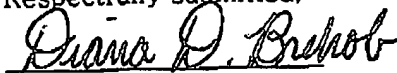
shows only a single can with a filter body 20 disposed within. Nowhere do Frost et al. show "a trap disposed in the exhaust duct located upstream of the catalytic converter" which is a limitation in each of claims 1, 10, 32, and 35. Because Frost et al. do not show all of Applicant's limitations, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1, 10, 32, and 35 is improper and respectfully request withdrawal of such rejection. Applicants further request the Examiner to withdraw rejections to claims 2-9, 11, 13-19, 33-34, and 36-38 which depend from one of claims 1, 10, 32, and 35.

The Examiner had objected to claim 12, but would allow claim 12 if written in independent form. Applicants submit that based on foregoing arguments that claim 10, upon which claim 12 depends, is now in allowable form. Thus, claim 12 is also allowable. Such allowance is courteously requested.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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